

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 3, insert the following as separate paragraphs:

--BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field--.

Page 1, before line 6, insert the following as a separate paragraph:

--2. Description of Related Art--.

Page 4, before line 24, insert the following as a separate paragraph:

--BRIEF SUMMARY--.

Page 7, before line 9, insert the following as a separate paragraph:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 8, before line 3, insert the following as a separate paragraph:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS--.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 23 as follows:

A local area network (LAN) N3, including a LAN server is connected via a data link to terminal T3. Further terminals ~~T6-T9~~ (not shown) at different distances from the user are also connected in the LAN.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 6 as follows:

³
b The child nodes 114 each have a locality of responsibility which forms a subset of the locality of responsibility of the root node 110, illustrated by inner rectangles 116A, 116B, 116C, 116D in Figure 4B. The child nodes are created using rule 2 described above applied to the root node 110.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 23 as follows:

⁴
b Referring to Figures 6A and 6B, a node 114C adjacent to the previously split node 114D may also be split to produce four new children nodes 118E-H. These new children nodes have localities of responsibility which are set to be sub-localities of the locality of responsibility 116C of their immediate parent node 114C. Their level in the network is set at 3, in accordance with rule 2 above. Their relationships within the indexing network include parent/child relationships with the parent node 114C, uncle/nephew relationships with nodes 114A, B D at the same level as their parent node 114C and sibling relationships between each of the new nodes 118E-H. In addition, the new nodes 118E-H which have localities of responsibility ~~120F, H~~ 120E, 120F, 120G, 120H which adjoin the localities of responsibility of the previously created nodes 118A, C at the same level are defined to have cousin relationships with those previously created nodes, in accordance with rule 6 above.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 23 as follows:

5
b Referring again to Figure 8, on receipt of the what-is-here? request (step 300), the receiving node applies an intersection function method to the LOI passed in the request, to determine whether the LOI intersects with the LOR of the node, step 302. If there is no intersection, the receiving node passes the request, along with the LOI of the request, to its parent node, step 304. Alternatively, if there is no intersection the node may compare the LOI with the LOR of any related adjacent nodes, passing the request to the best locality match, or passing the request to the parent if no good match is found.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 6 as follows:

c
b If the ~~LOP~~LOR and the LOI are found to intersect, the node proceeds to apply a similarity function, such as that described in relation to Figure 7, to determine whether the LOI of the user and the LOR of the node are similar in size, step 306.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 19 as follows:

Figure 12 illustrates the steps carried out by the gateway node of an agent on receipt of a move-node request from the agent, step ~~400~~600.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 21 as follows:

§⁸ The gateway node first determines whether the LOI or LOR of the requesting agent intersects with the LOR of an adjacent node, step ~~402~~602. If no such intersection exists, the gateway node passes the request to its parent node, step ~~404~~604.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 1 as follows:

§⁹ Otherwise, the gateway node passes the move-node request to the most appropriate adjacent node having an LOR which intersects with the LOP or LOI of the requesting agent (step 606).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 34, line 1 as follows:

§¹⁰ ~~CLAIMS~~ What is Claimed is:.